

Testimony for the SUBCOMMITTEE on HEALTH AND HOSPITALS

Good Afternoon to co-chairs Sen. Terry Gerratana, and Rep. Patricia Dillon, and to the Senators and Representatives of the Committee:

My name is Courtney Rosa. In this program, I am learning the value of communication skills and how to think differently. These are important for skills for me now and in the future because through this program, I am gaining essential skills that I can use in any career in which I work. Communication is crucial for everything we do in life, and Inclusion Teaming gives multiple techniques on how to communicate effectively.

Inclusion Teaming is important for youth with communication differences too, because it provides a safe, judgment free environment in which to learn. Instead of being told that they don't understand, in this program they learn how to understand; just like I do (a person with typical communication skill). This program also helps the well-being of kids because it provides the participants with a fundamental knowledge of why people who look or act differently. It gives an understanding of differences that aren't taught in everyday schools. I believe that if students could understand each other, there would be less bullying.

I think this program is vital for my education and the education of others because the things you learn while in Inclusion Teaming aren't things that are taught on a regular basis; but understanding communication differences should be taught. I personally have gained a new perspective on peers that I might have overlooked before and I have learned new ways to communicate effectively.

Respectfully Submitted

Courtney Rosa

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